

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 5558. I am a Clinical Director at the Connecticut Center for Child Development's school program for students with Autism. I have been working with this population and their families for 14 years, and can attest to how critical it is that this population receives services from those with expertise and qualifications in applied behavior analysis. I understand that many public institutions that have historically served this population are either closing or not accepting new clients, which means that individuals with severe problem behavior and other significant needs are placed back in the care of their families, who often cannot safely care for them. I am excited at the idea of a pilot program that would allow individuals with great need to benefit from behavior analytic services, which could allow them to live a safe, healthy and happy life. Additionally, I support changes that would expand the Medicaid Waiver for all people with autism, as there is such a need for all individuals on the spectrum to receive services beyond what is currently available. I urge you to pass this extremely important piece of legislation, and thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,

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